

Appl. No. : 10/630,230
Filed : July 30, 2003

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In Figure 1, the reference number "40" has been changed to "48".

In Figure 6, characters "47" and "54" and their associated lead-lines have been removed.

In Figure 8, the reference number "49" has been changed to "60".

In Figure 10, the reference number "102" which refers to the second passage has been changed to "104".

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COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 20, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 4, 5, 11, 14, 15, 18-21, 25, 26, 33, 38, 39, 43, 46 and 47 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. In this Amendment, Claims 33, 43, 46 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice.

With respect to the remaining withdrawn Claims, Applicant respectfully submits (as described below) that Claims 1, 12, 23 and 36 are in condition for allowance and are generic to all of the species identified by the Examiner. As such, Applicant respectfully request that the remaining withdrawn claims (i.e., Claims 4, 5, 11, 14, 15, 18-21, 25, 26, 38 and 39) now be considered and allowed. These claims are in condition for allowance because, *inter alia*, they depend (directly or indirectly) upon allowable Claims 1, 12, 23 and 36.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to drawings for failing to show the valve chamber including an annular recess and the valve including an annular ridge as recited in Claim 41. This claim has been canceled without prejudice.

With respect to reference number "40" in Figure 1, Applicant has amended Figure 1 in the replacement sheet. Specifically, reference number "40" has been changed to "48."

With respect to reference number "49" in Figure 8, Applicant has amended Figure 8 in a replacement sheet. Specifically, reference number "49" has been changed to "60."

With respect to reference number "102" in Figure 10, Applicant has amended Figure 10 in the replacement sheet. Specifically, the reference number "102," which refers to the second passage, has been changed to "104." As identified by the Examiner, appropriate corrections have also been made to the Specification regarding this reference number.

With respect to characters "47," "54" and "49" in Figures 6 and 8 respectively, as mentioned above, reference number "49" has been removed from Figure 8. Characters "47" and "54" and their associated lead-lines have also been removed from Figure 6

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Claims rejected under U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22-24, 27-30, 34-47, 40-42, 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner maintaining that the language therein is indefinite as filed. In response, Applicant has amended most of these claims solely to make these claims more easily readable, and not to narrow or affect the scope of the claims. All pending claims now fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In light of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-11 are also in condition for allowance because, *inter alia*, they depend upon (directly or indirectly) upon allowable Claim 1.

With respect to amended independent Claim 12, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is also in condition for allowance. Claims 13-21 depend upon allowable Claim 12, and, for at least this reason, are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 22, 27, 34, 35, 40 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Sharp (USPN 3,291,395). Claims 28, 29, 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Sharp in view of Englhard et al. (USPN 5,213,265). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these Claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution of the indicated allowable subject matter, Applicant has either canceled or amended the rejected claims as outlined below. Applicant plans to pursue the rejected claims in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

Claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 23 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 22. Applicant submits that Claim 23 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 24-30 depend or have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly on allowable Claim 23.

Claims 34 and 35 have also been canceled without prejudice. Claim 36 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 35. Applicant submits that Claim 36 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 37-39 depend either directly or indirectly on allowable Claim 36 and, for at least this reason, are also in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 40 has also been canceled without prejudice. The limitations of Claim 40 have been incorporated into dependent Claim 42, which is now in condition for allowance. Claims 44 and 45 depend upon allowable Claim 42 and, for at least this reason,

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these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claims 43, 46 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice.

Allowed Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has already indicated that Claims 31 and 32 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By:



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